Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. With this amendment, please amend claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10, 12, 14, 16-19, 21, and 23; cancel claims 2, 11, 13, 15, 20, 22 and 24; and add new claims 25-26. Claims 1, 3-10, 12, 14, 16-19, 21, 23, and 25-26 are pending in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A coin validator including:

a coin insertion opening;

a coin return opening;

structure defining a coin path from ~~the~~ said coin insertion opening to ~~the~~ said coin return opening, said coin path having a first side and a second side, said coin path further including ~~which coin path includes~~ a return region thereof that extends upstream from said coin return opening, wherein said structure includes a housing defining said first side of said coin path and a cover defining said second side of said coin path, said cover coupled to said housing at two or more mounting points;

means to detect and identify an object in a detection region of said coin path; ~~and~~

gate means in said coin path between such detection region and said return region responsive to identification of said object to either divert said object from said coin path or constrain it to traverse ~~the~~ said coin path to said coin return opening; and

~~wherein part of said structure is~~ means actuable to move said cover in a direction away from said first side of said coin path at said mounting points so as to widen substantially the whole of said coin path including said return region, whereby to facilitate clearance of jams in said coin path.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A coin validator according to claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein said cover ~~means~~ is a door.

4. (Original) A coin validator according to claim 3, wherein said means to detect and identify an object includes a pair of detect elements respectively mounted in said housing and in said cover means.

5. (Currently Amended) A coin validator according to claim 1, wherein said ~~part of said structure~~ cover is such that, on its movement to widen ~~the~~ said coin path, the whole of said path opens to form a chamber in which a coin at any location in ~~the~~ said coin path above said return region can drop to said return region.

6. (Currently Amended) A coin validator according to claim 5, wherein ~~the moveable part of the structure~~ said cover includes a rail defining ~~the~~ a floor of an upper part of ~~the~~ said coin path past said detection means.

7. (Currently Amended) A coin validator according to claim 1 wherein said ~~moveable part of the structure~~ cover remains substantially parallel to ~~an opposed part of the structure, eg the~~ said housing [[,]] as it moves to widen ~~the~~ said coin path.

8. (Currently Amended) A coin validator according to claim 7 wherein ~~the moveable part of the structure, is attached by mounting means including two or more parallel slots and co-operating pins~~ said two or more mounting points comprise two or more parallel slots and respective pins co-operatively engageable with said slots..

9. (Original) A coin validator according to claim 8 wherein there are four slot/pin pairs.

10. (Currently Amended) A coin validator according to claim 8, wherein said slots are formed as bent slots including first slot portions oriented to accurately define ~~the~~ an air gap width at ~~the~~ said detection means whereby to latch said cover to hold said air gap substantially fixed.

and second slot portions in which said cover moves to widen substantially the whole of said coin path.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A coin validator according to claim ~~11~~ 10 wherein ~~said moveable part of said structure is mounted whereby~~ movement of ~~said part~~ part of said cover includes a first segment of movement ~~in which said latching means is engaged~~ in said first slot portions and a second segment of movement ~~in which said latching means is released~~ in said second slot portion, and wherein means is provided such that detection means is disabled for said second segment of movement.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A coin validator including:

a coin insertion opening;

a coin return opening;

structure defining a coin path from ~~the~~ said coin insertion opening to ~~the~~ said coin return opening, said coin path having a first side and a second side, wherein said structure includes a housing defining said first side of said coin path and a cover defining said second side of said coin path coupled to said housing at two or more mounting points;

means to detect and identify an object in a detection region of said coin path, which means includes a pair of spaced opposed detect elements and an air gap in said coin path between said detect elements; ~~and~~

gate means in said coin path responsive to identification of said object to either divert said object from said coin path or constrain it to traverse ~~the~~ said coin path to said coin return opening;

wherein ~~part of said structure~~ said cover is actuable to move said cover in a direction away from said first side of said coin path at said mounting points so as to widen at least a portion of said coin path including said air gap, whereby to facilitate clearance of jams in said coin path;

wherein said two or more mounting points comprise two or more parallel slots and respective pins co-operatively engageable with said slots; and

wherein said slots are formed as bent slots including first slot portions oriented to accurately define an air gap width at detection means whereby to latch said cover to hold said air gap substantially fixed.

~~further including means, selectively releasable by a person who has inserted one or more coins into said coin insertion opening, to latch at least said actable part of said structure in said detection region to hold substantially fixed the width of said air gap in said detection region.~~

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A coin validator according to claim ~~15~~ 14 wherein said cover ~~means~~ is a door.

17. (Currently Amended) A coin validator according to claim ~~15~~ 14, wherein said detect elements are respectively mounted in said housing and in said cover ~~means~~.

18. (Currently Amended) A coin validator according to claim 14 wherein ~~the moveable part of the structure~~ said cover includes a rail defining ~~the~~ a floor of an upper part of ~~the~~ said coin path past said detection means.

19. (Currently Amended) A coin validator according to claim 14 wherein said ~~moveable part of the structure~~ cover remains substantially parallel to ~~an opposed part of the~~

~~structure, eg the~~ said housing [[,]] as it moves to widen ~~the~~ said coin path.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A coin validator according to claim ~~20~~ 14 wherein there are four slot/pin pairs.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A coin validator according to claim 14 wherein said ~~moveable part of said structure is mounted whereby~~ movement of ~~said part~~ said cover includes a first segment of movement in ~~which said latching means is engaged~~ said front slot portions and a second segment of movement ~~in which said latching means is released~~ such that said detection means is disabled for said second segment of movement.

24. (Canceled)

25. (New) A coin validator according to claim 1, wherein said means to detect and identify an object includes a pair of detect elements respectively mounted in said housing and in said cover means.

26. (New) A coin validator according to claim 9, wherein said slots are formed as bent slots including first slot portions oriented to accurately define an air gap width at said detection means whereby to latch said cover to hold said air gap substantially fixed, and second slot portions in which said cover moves to widen substantially the whole of said coin path.